

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09

NEA-10 AID-05 IO-14 USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00

EPG-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /137 W

-----081306Z 114159 /43

R 071500Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO USDA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 902

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: UNWFC EAGR OCON

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION

REF: STATE 117059

A REPLY BY ENG. IVO KUSTRACK, PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV
FEDERAL COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE TO SECRETARY BERLAND'S
LETTER OF MAY 26 WILL BE FORWARDED TO SECRETARY BERGLAND
BY YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION
O THAT REPLY FOLLOWS.

(BEGIN TEXT) DEAR MR. BERGLAN, LET ME FIRST THANK YOU FOR
YOUR LETTER OF MAY 26, 1977. I, TOO, HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION
ABOUT THE COURSE AND RESULTS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. I FEEL THAT IN A WAY, I TOO HAVE A REASON
TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING IN ROME.
WHEN I'M SAYING SO I HAVE IN MIND BOTH THE COURSE OF THE
DEBATE, AND THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A
SUFFICIENT RAPPROCHEMENT OF VIEWS AND THUS MAKE THE SUCCESS
OF OUR MANILA MEETING CERTAIN. IN MY OPINION IT WOULDN'T BE
USEFUL TO GO INTO AN ASSESSMENT OF THE REASONS OF THE RELATIVE
FAILURE OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING. INSTEAD, ONE SHOULD
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CONCENTRATE ON THE QUESTION OF HOW TO OVERCOME IN THE SHORT
TIME WHICH REMAINS TILL THE MANILA MEETING AND IN MANILA ITSELF
THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN AND ON MAKING THE FIRST
REAL STEP IN TRANSLATING INTO LIFE THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMEND-
ATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALLOW ME, THEREFORE, TO
EXPLAIN MY VIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND OF
THE MANILA MEETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THAT.

IT IS OUR DUTY CAREFULLY TO FOLLOW AND FORESEE, AND IF NECESSARY, TO MAKE THE ESSENTIAL CORRECTIONS ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT WE HAVE AGREED AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, I MUST SAY THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, I DON'T SEE A SINGLE REASON FOR A REVISION. ON THE CONTRAY, NUMEROUS PAPERS, MOST OF WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN THE US, CONFIRM THE DECISIONS OF THE WFC. IF THAT IS TRUE, AND I FEEL DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT IT IS, THEN IT IS OUR PRINCIPAL TASK TO GIVE THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WFC AN OPERATIONAL IMPOTANCE AND TO CARRY THEM OUT. IN OTHER WORDS, ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS TO REMEMBER THE GOALS AND STRATEGY IN THE SENSE IN WHICH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AND THE WFC AND, PROCEEDING FROM THAT, TO MAKE A STEP FARTHER--BY WORKING OUT THE OPERATIVE ASPECTS OF THE WFC, BY ENCOURAGING AND COORDINATING THE ACTIONS OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE TO CARRY OUT MEASURES ON WHICH WE REACH AGREEMENT. NATURALLY, I DO NOT THINK THAT WE CAN DO SO IN ONE SINGLE ATTEMPT. HOWEVER IN VIEW OF THE TWO ABORTIVE MEETINGS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, IT IS OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A MAJOR STEP IN THAT DIRECTION IN MANILA. I BASICALLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE IN MANILA ON THE TRULY KEY ISSUES INVOLVING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, I.E., THE UPROOTING OF STARVATION AND MALNUTRITION. THIS IS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL WHICH IN MY PERSONAL OPINION REQUIRES THAT WE SHOULD ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS ALONG ALL THE BASIC LINES WHICH LEAD TO THAT GOAL. I FEEL THAT I AM FAITHFULLY INTERPRETING THE WFC WHEN I EMPHASIZE THREE LONG-TERM AND TWO TRANSITIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WITH WHICH WE ARE FACED. ON THE ONE SIDE THERE IS: 1. THE NEED ESSENTIALLY TO SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOOD PRODUCTION IN

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FOOD PRIRITY COUNTRIES, WHICH IS THE ONLY LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, WHICH REQUIRES FIRST OF ALL AND ABOVE ALL A MAJOR INCREASE IN INVESTMENTS ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, ALONG WITH AN EQUALLY UNDERLINED INCREASE IN THE FOREIGN AID TO THEM, UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS; 2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFICACIOUS FOOD SUPPLY AND SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE WORLD, AND 3. A REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE POSTION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE SPHERE OF TRADE IN FOODSTUFFS. ON THE OTHER SIDE, THERE ARE TRANSITIONAL MEASURES TOO: AID IN FOOD AND THE PROMOTION OF NUTRITION, WHICH, I AGREE, HAVE TO BE SUBORDINATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THAT GOAL, PREDOMINATELY TURNED TO IMPROVING THE POSITION OF THE MOST AFFECTED SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO NUTRITION AND FOOD SUPPLY. WHAT I SAID HERE PROVES THAT I BASICALLY AGREE WITH YOU WHERE IT COMES TO WHAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON IN MANILA. OUR VIEWS DIFFER ONLY WHERE THE ISSUE OF TRADE IS INVOLVED. I BELIEVE THAT HERE TOO THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS. INCIDENTALLY,

I AGREE THAT THE UNCTAD AND GATT ARE THE ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD AND PROGRESS MADE. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR DUTY TO REPEAT THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM CONCERNING TRADE IN FOODSTUFFS IS A VITAL ELEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOOD PRODUCTION IN MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE A PROGRESS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THAT ISSUE.

THINKING ABOUT MANILA I FEEL THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WE REPRESENT AN ORGAN OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ARE UNDER OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH ECOSOC ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE DECIDED AND RECOMMEND. IN THIS WE MUST BE AS DEFINITE AND AS EXPLICIT AS POSSIBLE. THE WAY I SEE IT, THE PROBLEM BOILS DOWN TO THE FACT THAT THE RESULTS OF OUR WORK SHOULD BE A RATHER CONCISE TEXT OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BASIC

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ISSUES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRELIMINARY MEETING DID NOT PROVIDE US WITH THE DRAFT OF A TEXT THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BASIC ISSUE AND PASS CLEAR-CUT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THEM. NEVERTHELESS, I AM OPTIMISTIC AND I BELIEVE THAT DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS ARE NOT AS OUTSTANDING AS THEY MAY APPEAR TO BE. WE HAVEN'T REALLY MADE AN ATTEMPT IN THAT DIRECTION. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT THE TIME WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL INDEED IS SHORT, I PROPOSE TO RESUME INFORMAL CONTACTS AMONG ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE INTERVAL TILL MANILA, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A RAPPROCHEMENT AND MAKE OUR MEETING IN MANILA SUCCESSFUL. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING IN THIS DIRECTION. WE HAVE HAD SEPARATE TALKS ABOUT THIS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE HAD SUCH TALKS YOURSELF. PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT THESE

INFORMAL CONTACTS ARE OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE AND THAT THIS IS THE WAY IN WHICH ONE SHOULD PREPARE DRAFTS OF PROPOSALS FOR OUR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. OR WE SHALL OTHERWISE SIMPLY HAVE NO TIME TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS IN MANILA. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT BEING ABLE TO ACHIEVE AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS BOTH BEFORE MANILA, AND IN MANILA ITSELF, SHOULD BE PRESUMED. BUT WE MUST STRIVE TO ACHIEVE AN RAPPROCHEMENT ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES, AND, IF WE ACHIEVE THAT, WE ALREADY SHALL BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT STEP FARTHER. IN MY OPINION ROME IS THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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SUITABLE PLACE FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS AND I'LL FORWARD TO OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS RESPECT. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE MANILA MEETING IS OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE BOTH TO MY GOVERNMENT, AND TO ME PERSONALLY. I BELIEVE, AS I ALREADY EMPHASIZED BEFORE, THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE AN IDENTITY OR CLOSENESS OF VIEWS OVER A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND THUS SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISH THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WHERE OTHER VITAL ISSUES ARE CONCERNED. IF WE CARRY ON WITH INFORMAL CONTACTS TILL MANILA, I THINK THAT WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO THAT GOAL WHICH WOULD MAKE ALSO THE COMING WEEKS MORE SUCCESSFUL FOR US.

ALLOW ME AT THE END TO SAY A FEW WORDS ALSO ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT COULD MAKE OUR WORK MORE DIFFICULT FOR US. I AGREE, AS I SAID BEFORE, THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON BASIC QUESTIONS AND THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THEM FRANKLY AND OPENLY. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD IN THE PROCESS NOT NEGLECT ALSO MANY OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND OVER WHICH A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. I FEEL THAT WE CAN DO MORE ALSO ALONG THIS LINE, AND ALSO THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT WHICH WE SHALL FORWARD TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN MY VIEWS ON QUESTIONS WHICH ARE OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE. SIMILARLY, IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I CAN ESTABLISH THAT WE HAVE ALL BUT IDENTICAL VIEWS ON MOST OF THE QUESTIONS. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AT MANILA. I SHARE YOUR OPINION THAT PERSONAL CONTACTS AND AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR JOINT EFFORT, AND I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU OUR ASSURANCES ONCE AGAIN THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING IN ORDER THAT REAL SUCCESS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN MANILA. YOURS SINCERELY, IVO KUSTRAK, PRESIDENT, FEDERAL COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE. YORK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MALNUTRITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA03729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770204-0262
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770685/aaaacwah.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88acbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 117059
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2254838
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION
TAGS: EAGR, OCON, WFC, (BERGLAND, ROBERT)
To: AGR STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88acbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009